

ORDERS TA-  
ken, and enacted, for  
ORPHANS  
and their por-  
cions.

*Ann.*

*Dyson*

Anno. M. D.  
L1.



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London. Corporation. Common council

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## ¶ Orders enacted.

For - Lidd - H<sup>o</sup> 16

for 143

**A**D Commune concilium, tētum in Guild-  
haldia ciuitatis Londini, xiii. die Octobris,  
Anno regni Eduardi sexti, Dei gratia An-  
glia, Francia, & Hibernia Regis, fidei de-  
fensoris, & in terra Ecclesiae Anglicanae, &  
Hibernicae supremicapitis, quinto: coram  
Andrea Iudde milite, tunc Maiore, & Aldre  
mannis Ciuitatis illius, ordinata sunt inter a-  
lia, inactitata, cōcessa, & stabilita, omnia &  
singula subsequētia.

1552

the  
Lidd  
for 143



**D**rasmuch as the citie of  
London, is of late yeres  
soze decayed, and dayly is  
lyke to decaye, moze and  
moze. A great cause and  
occasion wherEOF among other, hath  
bene, for that fræ mens children, (Or-  
phanes of the sayd Citie) sometymes

A.ij.

in

in the liues of their Parents, & sometimes after their disceases, beinge left welthy, & ryche, doe bestow themselves in vngodly Mariages, for the moste part in their yong age, at their owne willes, and pleasures, without the consent, and againste the mindes of theyr friends, saying, and affirming, that the Law, and custome of the sayde Citie giueth vnto them their porcions, whether they marye by the assent of theyr friendes or not, and so doe dayly cast away, and vndo them selues, in trust to haue theyr sayde porcions, whether their Parentes, or friends will, or wyl not. And therby doe they bestow themselves vpon simple, and lyght persons hauing neyther cunning, knowledge, substaunce, ne good, or honest condicions. By reason whereof suche Orphanes, inordinately, and insolently, doe spende, and consume their patrimony, and porcions, in short tyme, not onely to the vndoinge of themselves,

and



and to the great ignominie and shame of their friendes, but also to the great sleaundre of the Lord Maior, and Aldermen of this citie (who bene reputed, and taken as Fathers, and Protectours, of the same Orphanes) and to the great losse, and hinderaunce of þe sayde Citie.

And forasmuch as the sayde Lorde Maior, and Citeziens haue by theyr lawes, and customes, power, and aucthoritie, to make lawes, and ordinaunces, by their commune counsaill, for redresse of the same. It is therfore now (to thintent to rednce þe same to a more godly, more profitable, and decent ordre, and conformite) by the sayde Lord Maior, & Comminalte, and Citizens, in this present commune counsaill assembled, and by aucthoritie of the same commune Counsaill, ordeyned, enacted, aucthorized, and establiſhed, for a Lawe perpetually to be obserued and kept within the sayde Citie. That if a-

ny Orphane, or childe of any free man  
 or free woman, of the saide Citie doe  
 offende in any the thinges hereafter  
 expresse, and be therof lawfully con-  
 uicted, afore the Lorde Maior and the  
 Aldermen or els where, that then they  
 and euery of them, shail to all ententes  
 purposes, constructions & meaninges,  
 be enabled and barred to demaunde  
 and claime their porcion or porcions, &  
 also shall lose and forgo & be barred for  
 euer, of all and euery his, her, or their  
 parte or parts, and porcions to him or  
 them belonging, by and after the death  
 of his or their said father or mother, of  
 the gooddes and Cattalles, of euery  
 such father and mother, by reason of a-  
 ny Lawe, custome, ordinaunce, vsage,  
 franchises, priuilege, act of Commune  
 counsaile, or other thing, hertofore had  
 or vsed, within the saide Citie. The  
 same Lawe, Custome, Ordinaunce or  
 other thinge whatsoeuer, heretofore  
 had, made, ordeined, allowed, and put  
 in

in hze, to the contrarpe in anye wyse  
 notwithstandinge. That is to witte.  
 first, if any manchild, or womanchild,  
 shall malitiously go about, or attempt  
 to doo, or cause to be done, any bodeily  
 harne, death, or destruction to his or  
 their ffather, or Mother: Or if any  
 manchilde, doo hereafter mary, or con-  
 tract mariage, in the lyfe of his father,  
 or mother (by whome he will clayme  
 any porcion) vnder the age of xxi. yea-  
 res, without the consent of his sayde  
 ffather, or Mother, by whome hee  
 wyll clayme anye porcion: Or if a-  
 ny Womanchilde, doe hereafter Ma-  
 rrye, or contracte Mariage, in the lyfe  
 of her father, or other parent, by whom  
 she shall claime anye Porcion, before  
 the age of. xviii. yeaes, without the  
 consent of hir ffather, or suche other  
 Parent by whome shee shall or may  
 claime any porcion: Or if anie Man-  
 childe be a Thiefe, or a fellow, or a

common whoze haunter, a common  
 Dysar, or a common player at vnlaw-  
 full games notoziously knowen: Or if  
 any womanchilde shall hereafter com-  
 mit any whozedome, or be a common  
 Picker, that then euery of y personnes  
 so offending, shalbe barred & excluded  
 to haue, or demaunde any porcion.

¶ Provided alwayes, that it shalbe  
 lawfull, for the ffather, or Mother of a  
 ny such childe, or children, to geue and  
 bequeth in Legacie, to suche Childe, or  
 Children, as muche as the Porcion of  
 such child so offending shall amount vn-  
 to, by the custome of the sayde citie, and  
 then suche childe thereby to be enabled  
 to haue, and demaund y same, as Por-  
 cio, this Acte, notwithstanding, so that  
 the same legacy be contained in his, or  
 their testament in wryting & not other-  
 wise. And that then and from thence-  
 furth his sayd child, or childre, to be ad-  
 mitted, and restored to claime suche le-  
 gacie, or legacies, in suche sorte maner  
 and

and forme, as if ther had ben neuer a-  
ny suche offence done, oꝛ committed by  
any such childe.

Item, it is further ordeyned, enac-  
ted, auctorized, and establisshed, by  
thauthorite aforesayde, that if any wo-  
manchilde, being an Orphane, and un-  
der the age of .xxi. yeares, at any tyme  
hereafter, after the death of hir father,  
do ensure oꝛ contract hir selfe in Ma-  
riage, oꝛ els according to the Ecclesia-  
sticall Lawes of this Realme, do per-  
fectly solempnize oꝛ consumate Mari-  
age, with any fræ man of this Citie,  
the consent and agrement of the Lord  
Mayor, and Aldermen of this sayde  
Citie of London, for the tyme beinge,  
not obteyned and had, that then for e-  
uery such default and offence comit-  
ted oꝛ done, by any Orphane oꝛ Or-  
phanes, of the sayde Citie, the same  
being confessed oꝛ sufficiently proued  
by two witnesses oꝛ otherwise before  
the sayde Lord Mayor, and Aldermen

# Orders enacted

of this sayde Citie of London, for the tyme being, at and in a Courte of Aldermen, the or they that so happen to behaue hir or themselves, as is aforesayd, shall forfeit, forgo. and lose . ii. d. of and for every pound, so due or to be due, vnto her or them, by reason of any such Orphanage, the summe of. xii. d. of every. ii. to go, or be, to the vse of the Chamber of the sayd Citie, accordinge to the auncient custome before this tyme, in such case vlsed. And if the sayde Contract or mariage of the sayde Orphan, or, Orphans, be made with anye forein, not beinge free of this Citie, at the tyme of any such contract. or mariage made, that then the sayd Orphan, or Orphans and euery of them shall forfeite and lose. iiii. s. of euery pounce, or to be due vnto hir, or them, by vertue of any Orphanage, or custome, had and vlsed, within the sayde Citie. The one shilling of the saide. iiii. s. of euery pounce, to go, or to be, to the vse of the Cham-

for Orphanes.

Chamber of the sayde Citie, in suche maner and fourme as is aforesayde. And the other.ii.s.so forsayd, of euery pound, to go to the vse of such, other Orphane, or Orphanes, as then shall remaine vnmarrid. Or els for default of such Orphanes, or Orphane, to remaine to the next of the kindred of the Orphane so offending.

¶ Also be it further ordeined, enacted, and established by authozite aforesayd, for, and in eschuing of diuerse variacions, contencions, and suites, that dayely heretofore haue, and hereafter may ensue: that if any free mans child, man, or woman, fortune to be marryed hereafter, in the lyfe tyme of his, or their father, by his consent, and not fully aduanced of, and to, his, or her full parte, or porcion, of his, or her, sayde fathers goodes, as he shalbe worthe at the tyme of hys dyscease, accordinge to the auncient Lawes, and Customes,



Orders enacted

Customes, of this sayd Citie: that then  
euery such free mans childe, so beynge  
mariyed in the life tyme of his, or her  
father shalbe to all intentes, and pur-  
poses, disabled to demaunde any fur-  
ther parte, or portion, of hys or her fa-  
thers goods, after the discease of his, or  
her father, but shalbe adindged, repu-  
ted and taken to be fully aduanced, ac-  
cording as the Lawe and Custome of  
this Citie hath bene long tyme oute of  
minde, except his or hir sayd father, do  
mencion certeinly, in his laste wyll, or  
testament, or by other wytyng signed  
with his owne proper name, or Mark  
the certainty of the some or sommes of  
money, goods, and cattalles, & the ba-  
lue of them, that the father gaue, pay-  
ed or departed with all, or otherwyse  
assured or hereafter shall giue, paye,  
depart with all, or otherwyse make as-  
surance of, vnto him, or her, befoze at  
or after the mariage of him or hir or o-  
therwi e in his lyfe tyme, for and to-  
wards

for Orphanes.

wardes their aduancementes, in the name of his or her part, or porcion.

And then euery such Orphane, or child which after the decease of his or her sayd father, can bring furth the sayde Testament or other wytyng signed or marked with y<sup>e</sup> fathers hand or mark, wherein the certeintie of such money, goods, or Cattalles, as they haue or shall haue, receyued of they<sup>r</sup> sayd father, or by the same father, assured by especialtie, or otherwise, shall haue as much of the ready money, goods, cattalles, and debtes of the sayde father, as (with that which he, or they shall haue receyued towards their aduancementes, in the lyfe of they<sup>r</sup> said father) shall make by a full chilles parte, of his goods, and Cattalles, as he shalbee worth, at the tyme of hys decease. The same to be demaunded, asked, & claymed, or sued for, against the Executor, or executours, administratour, or administratours, of the goods, and Cattalles

## Orders enacted

talles of the sayde father, by byll Originall, to be commenced in our soueraigne Lorde the kinges court, holden in the outter chamber of the guild hal, of the sayde Citie, befoze the said lorde Maior and Aldzemen of the same citie for the time being, any lawe, or custome, heretofore made, or vsed to the contrary, notwithstanding. In which action, no wager of Law, or Essoine, shalbe admitted, or allowed.

¶ Provided alway, and it is further enacted, that if any free mans sonne, being of full age, (which shall hereafter be married with the consent of his father, or any other person, being of full age, which shall hereafter marry any free mans daughter) dowe at the tyme of the espousailles, or at any time after, confesse them selues, by wytyng fully satisfied, of his, or their portion, or dow otherwyle acquite and discharge, the father of suche free mans sonnes, or daughters, of all their parte and portion

for Orphanes.

cion, due, or to be due, by the Lawe  
and custome of the Citie. that then e-  
uery such person, so confessinge, acquy-  
ting, or otherwise discharginge, shalbe  
reputed, and taken, as fully aduanc-  
ced, of his, or their whole part, or por-  
cion, and shall not be enabled, to de-  
maunde any further, or greater parte  
of the substance, goods, and cattalles,  
of his or her ffather: this Lawe, or a-  
ny other Lawe or Custome heretofore  
had, made, or bled to the contrary, not-  
withstanding.

And further, forasmuche as it is *widow*  
thought very preiudiciall, and hurtful  
to the fatherlesse childzen and Orpha-  
nes, when the mother, or mother in  
lawe. being executrix of the laste wyll,  
and Testament of her late husbande,  
by whome, and after whose death, the  
Orphanes are entituled to an Orpha-  
nage, (acordinge to the sayde lau-  
dable customes of this Citie) doe  
dyuers tymes marye or Contracte  
matrimo-

## Orders enacted

matrimony, some with forreiners and persones vnknobwen, and some wpyth free men, or euer a iust inuentory of the goods, cattalles, plate, Jewelles, ready money of the Testatours, be by the brought in: By reason whereof many tymes they, (either for feare or affection of their husbands, or for some other sinistre cause,) doe bring in very suspicious Inuentories, omitting therein either ready money, Plate, Jewelles, or debtes, or some other thing, or thngs, wherby some benefite should redound to the fatherlesse childzen, to the greate losse, and hinderaunce of the Orphanes and some tyme, flaundze to the Lorde Maior, and Aldermen of this Citie, notwithstanding their great care, and trauiail that they take for the good ordering, and true answering of the sayd Orphanes:

It is therfore, by like anthozitie, ordeined, establisshed, and enacted, that if after the fyrst day of Nouembze next ensuing

1013  
suing, any Widdow, which is, or shall  
made executrix of the Testamente  
and last will of hir late hus bande, (be-  
g a free man) or shall take vpon her  
administracion of the goods, and cat-  
alles, of her late hus bande (beinge a  
free man) do not vpon her othe, bzing  
in, and exhibite, or cause to be brought  
in, and exhibited, before the Lord Mai-  
or, and Aldermen of this sayd citie, for  
the time being, at, and in a court of Al-  
dermen, a iust, and perfect Inuentory,  
(to their knowledge,) of al the goodes,  
attalles, plate, & Iuelles, ready mo-  
ney, and debtes, as were her sayd hus-  
bands, at the time of his death, appray-  
sed according to the lawe of the sayd ci-  
tie, before she do ensure her self in ma-  
riage, or contracte mariage, or els ac-  
cording to the lawes of the Realme, do  
perfectly solempnise, or consumate ma-  
riage with any personne, before suche  
time as aforesayd, that then euery per-  
son so offending, shall forfait and lose,

B.i.

viii. s.

Orders enacted

matrimony, some with forreiners and persones vnknownen, and some wpyth fræ men, or euer a iust inuentozy of the goods, cattalles, plate, Jewelles, ready money of the Testatours, be by the brought in: By reason whereof many tymes they, (either for feare or affection of their husbands, or for some other sinistre cause,) doe bring in very suspicious Inuentozies, omitting therein either ready money, Plate, Jewelles, or debtes, or some other thing, or thynge, wherby some benefite should redound to the fatherlesse childzen, to the greate losse, and hinderance of the Orphans and some tyme, flaundze to the Lorde Maior, and Aldzemen of this Citie, notwithstanding their great care, and trauiail that they take for the good ordering, and true answering of the sayd Orphanes:

It is therfore, by like anthozitie, ordeined, established, and enacted, that if after the fyrst day of Nouembze next ensuing



insuing, any Widowe, which is, or shall  
 be made executrix of the Testamente  
 and last will of hir late hus bande, (be-  
 ing a free man) or shall take vpon her  
 administracion of the goods, and cat-  
 tals, of her late hus bande (beinge a  
 free man) do not vpon her othe, bringe  
 in, and exhibite, or cause to be brought  
 in, and exhibited, before the Lord Mai-  
 or, or, and Aldermen of this sayd citie, for  
 the time being, at, and in a court of Al-  
 dremen, a iust, and perfect Inuentory,  
 (to their knowledg, ) of al the goodes,  
 cattalles, plate, & Jewelles, ready mo-  
 ney, and debtes, as were her sayd hus-  
 bands, at the time of his death, appray-  
 sed according to the lawe of the sayd ci-  
 tie, before she do ensure her self in ma-  
 riage, or contracte mariage, or els ac-  
 cording to the lawes of the Realme, do  
 perfectly solempnise, or consumate ma-  
 riage with any personne, before suche  
 time as aforesayd, that then euery per-  
 son so offending, shall forfait and lose,

liiii. s. of euery pounde, of her porcyon  
of the goodes of her late husbnde, due  
to her by the laudable custome of thys  
sayde Citie, the same to go to the vse of  
suche Orphane, or Orphanes, as ther  
shalbe entituled to haue, or demaunde  
any Orphanage, or porcion, after the  
deathe of his, or her late father, the  
same to be demaunded, asked, claimed  
or sued for, againste suche executrix, or  
administratrix by bill originall of debt,  
to be commenced, in our Soueraigne  
Lord the kings Courte, holden in the  
otter Chamber of the Guild hal, of the  
sayd citie, befoze the Lord Maior, and  
Aldremen of the same Citie, for  
the tyme being, any Law. &c.

In which Action, no  
wager. &c.





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